MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes. Upper and Lower Sanatorium Bungalows can be occupied with the special sanction of Government. There is also the camp-shed at Merchiston which can be used on payment of the usual fees.

Opening of new roads in Nedumangad taluk.

186. ✻**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any provision has been made in the P. W. D. budget for the next year (1110) for the opening of new roads in the Nedumangad taluk?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Chief Engineer inspected the Kallara-Aruvipuram trace and promised to convert it into a cartable road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I do not think that arises out of the question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member how many traces there are in the Nedumangad taluk that can be converted into cartable roads?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnattnad II*): On a point of order, Sir. That question does not arise.

PRESIDENT: I am glad that members are now coming to my rescue.

Abolition of the P. W. D. toll-gate at Nedumangad.

187. ✻**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of a resolution passed in the old Legislative Council that the Nedumangad P. W. D. toll-gate shall be abolished; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, why the said resolution was not respected by the Government?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The resolution will be considered along with the general question of the abolition of toll-gates in the state.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will that question of abolition of toll gates be considered?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): The resolution will be considered along with the general question of abolition of the toll-gates in the State.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether, after the resolution referred to was passed in the Legislative Council, any additional toll-gates were opened in the Nedumangad taluk?

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. The member had already put the question and he did not put any supplementary question. Except, therefore, with the special permission of the Chair, he cannot ask supplementary questions.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, before, I could put supplementary questions, another member intervened and began to put questions?

PRESIDENT: Well, I allow you.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether, subsequent to the resolution referred to that was passed in the old Legislative Council, any new toll-gate was opened in the Nedumangad taluk?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I do not think, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it was after that resolution that a branch of the Aipara toll-gate was opened at the 17th mile stone in the Nedumangad taluk?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): This is a subsidiary gate.

MR S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the branch of the Aipara toll-gate put up at the 17th mile stone and the Nedumangad toll-gate are at a distance of 9 miles?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I believe that is a fact.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether vehicles in the Nedumangad taluk have to pay 2 separate P. W. D. tolls on the same day?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): That question was answered when the previous resolution was considered. The two toll-gates are situated in different roads, one on the Trivandrum-Shencotta Road and the other in the Main Central Road.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether separate tolls have to be paid twice at a distance of 9 miles?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether such a policy is against the principle of putting toll-gates, as admitted by Government?

PRESIDENT: I would invite the attention of the member to the manner in which the question should be asked. It should be, whether there is any principle under which such toll-gate is opened.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, in a former Session the Chief Engineer has informed us that there is a principle in opening toll-gates; and that, if I remember correctly, is that there should be a distance of 15 miles between two toll-gates?

PRESIDENT: Then you can ask if there is any such principle.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): There is, Sir,

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): As a matter of fact, I do not think there is any principle like that referred to by Mr. Nair. The Chief Engineer replying to interpellations on a former occasion, stated that as far as possible that would be the principle. The

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reasons for putting these two toll-gates are also stated there. These two toll-gates are on different roads; one being on the main road to Shencotta and the other on the M. C. Road.

PRESIDENT: They are not on the same road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*); No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether vehicles are exempted from payment of more than one toll-gate fee in the Nedumangad taluk?

PRESIDENT: In a year?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Daily, Sir. The drivers of vehicles have to pay within 24 hours a toll fee of Rs. 5 for one vehicle.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): There are two sub-gates.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether, excluding the sub-gate, there is any additional gate where we will have to pay separate toll fee within a distance of 9 miles?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes, if you travel along the two main roads I referred to.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the existence of two separate toll-gates at a distance of nine miles is not against the policy of the Government with regard to the opening of toll-gates?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): We shifted one toll-gate but I am sorry we could not shift the other toll-gate.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there were very many petitions and complaints with regard to the need of shifting the branch of the toll-gate at the 17th mile to a place beyond the 21st mile stone?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*); We had several petitions and prayers from Mr. S. J. Nair himself.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether that prayer, on behalf of the public was considered?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chif Engineer*): We considered one prayer and Mr. Nair knows all about it, because we wrote to him.

PRESIDENT: When I gave special permission to you, I never knew you had so many questions to put. I would not have given you permission.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): It is a very serious difficulty Sir, that we people of Nedumangad are experiencing. At a distance of 9 miles, we have to pay 2 separate tolls.

PRESIDENT: I think you have sufficiently emphasised that.

MR. S. J NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, it is a very great grievance to us. Within a radius of 2 furlongs we have to pay more than two tolls.

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PRESIDENT; You are not arguing a case now.

MR. S J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Chief Engineer the average distance of the toll-gates that are put up in the Nedumangad taluk?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I have not measured them.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there is any other town where so many toll-gates have been put up anywhere?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Chief Engineer has inspected the Nedumangad town.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I have been there.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether he has noticed the existence of 3 toll-gates in the Nedumangad town?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): In the town, no.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether he has seen the presence of toll gates in all the roads that go within the town?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): To what roads does he refer?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Chief Engineer has seen the presence of toll-gates in all the branch roads that go out of the town?

PRESIDENT: You mean all arcund the city?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I must have seen them, if I travelled on those roads.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it is not a hardship to the people in the town that there are three toll-gates?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I have no information on that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): With reference to the two toll-gates on different roads that the Chief Engineer mentioned, may I know whether there are many vehicles passing through both these gates on the same date?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I do not think there is, as a matter of fact.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): In that case, will the Chief Engineer consider the desirability of taking away the liability of paying toll in both the gates, in case the same vehicle passes through both the same day?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I am afraid it is too late to consider that this year because the toll-gates have already been auctioned.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether any definite policy is adopted by the Department in introducing new toll-gates or reviving toll-gates that were once abolished?

PRESIDENT: What is the policy adopted by Government in introducing new toll-gates and abolishing existing toll-gates? That is what the member wants to know.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): The policy adopted by the Department in the introduction of toll-gates is to make those using the roads to contribute to the cost of up-keep.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether, in the case of ordinary roads where no bridge or any other convenience beyond the ordinary metalling exists, Government have introduced toll-gates?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I think this again is far beyond the original question.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the member is aware that recently the Dewan Sahib expressed that the institution of toll-gates is not only a nuisance but ill-suited to the civilized world?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I would request the member to refer to the Dewan Sahib.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the member is aware that the Dewan Sahib expressed it publicly?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I was not there and so did not hear the speech of the Dewan Sahib.

Supply of Bombay Salt.

188. ✻**MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Quilon I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the Firm that supply Bombay salt for the year 1109;

(*b*) their rate;

(*c*) the rates of the other tenderers;

(*d*) the period for which the contract for the supply of Bombay salt is given to them;

(*e*) whether there have been complaints that the quality of salt supplied was inferior;

(*f*) whether a deputation represented to the Excise Commissioner about the inferior quality of the salt stored at the Munambam Depot;

(*g*) whether the Excise Commissioner enquired into it; and

(*h*) what action he took?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) Messrs Khan Bahadur H. M. D. H. Bhiwandiwala & Co., Bombay.

(*b*) Bh. Rs. 65 per 100 maunds.

(*c*) Bh. Rs. 67-4-0, Bh. Rs. 71-8-0 and Bh. Rs. 70 per 100 maunds.

(*d*) Two years.

(*e*) Yes,

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